

Newbury, Dec 17 1821.

Much respected and dear Madam

Without an hyperbole I think I can assure you that yours of the 26th ult was received with much pleasure. Its value was greatly enhanced by some circumstances attending the time at which it arrived. I had just seated myself at the table on thanksgiving day morning, and being rather indisposed felt as though there was but little enjoyment for me, when my attention was called to the door and I was permitted to receive your friendly letter. A perusal of its contents seemed to dissipate the mists of honour with which imagination had surrounded me, and although my indisposition opposed my joining the social circle, yet I felt my spirits sensibly elevated, (and I enjoyed the day far better than the brightest anticipations, under such circumstances, could have induced me to believe I should do.

The friendly sentiments expressed in your very acceptable letter I think I can heartily reciprocate; (and I have long wished I might be permitted to call you by the endearing appellation of sister (for like a sister you have long seemed to me.) It affords me much pleasure to learn that you arrived in safety notwithstanding the uncomfortable season in which you took your journey (and the peculiarly unpleasant weather you had during the latter part of it. It gives me additional pleasure to be able to conclude (an inference I draw from your silence on the subject) that your health is as good as usual. — It is not

a little gratifying to hear that you find some time to read; for
in books, if you make a good selection, I think you will meet
with the best of society. From them as from the fount² fountains
you may derive ~~many~~ golden maxims of wisdom and truths of
much practical importance and utility. The evidences of
Christianity instead of being slightly read as is too generally the case,
ought to be faithfully studied. Surely no book is better vouch²ed than
the bible, yet none perhaps is more frequently and wantonly attack²
ed. While infidelity then continues to exist it is important that
the friends of Revelation, should be well acquainted with the
external evidences which alone bear ^{any} weight with those who
doubt its authenticity and deny its authority. You say Mr. B.
appearance does not answer your expectations. I hope you
will not have reason to complain of his preaching. I want you
to give me the general character of his ~~preaching~~ sermons. — The
reason I did not answer your request for "the hedge of thorns" was
simply this I did not receive your letter until after the wagon
left — Should I find an opportunity of sending it I shall. It is
a very ~~well~~ interesting little volume. It forcibly inculcates, by
example, the importance of pursuing with unvarying steadiness
that "shait and narrow way" which alone conducs to the
peaceful shores of that happy country where are pleasures
forevermore. It points out the great folly and wickedness
of wishing to break over those salutary restraints, which are
so necessary to keep in due subordination our lawless pas-
sions & appetites, & to check that criminal curiosity which
we too often manifest to pry into things with which we had
better be unacquainted. If we ~~rightly read~~ were careful
to read with close attention the book of providence ever
open for our inspection, we should find ourselves healed

about with so much undesigned kindness, which, it seems, ~~has~~
secured for ourselves gratitude & constant obedience. Yet notwithstanding
the constant experience we have of the goodness of God and
his loving-kindness - how prone are we to go astray from him, and
by so doing, we incur to ourselves that punishment which is most
justly inflicted on us for endeavouring to break down those barriers
which are set up to defend us against greater evils lying beyond
them.

After so much intelligence as you must have received
by the great number of letters recently addressed to you, it would
be presumption in me to think of offering any thing new. Your
mother however I must tell you is so well as to keep about
the house - she attends I believe considerably to spinning
she does not appear at all pleased with the idea of ~~going~~
being shut up all winter. I suppose you have been
told that she attended meeting on thanksgiving day.
I think she is as well as when you left. Your brother
M. is at present rather more in than usual - occa-
sioned I believe by a sudden cold - Other friends
much as usual - J. Hale appears to be doing well.
M. Tappan remains indisposed - his friends are
yet in doubt to know what to conclude respecting
him. - Mr. Miltimon continues to be afflic-
ted with the rheumatism - I think however he is
better. Capt. Braeford is about sailing again
Mrs R. I think will return to her father's. I have
time to write no more though I have a thou-
sand things to say. Mrs Miltimon has char-
ged me to remember her regards to you whenever
I may have opportunity. Miss Abigail is well.
Give my regards to your brother & sister & let her know
I send likewise to Joshua yours with esteem & Dickard

to write you again
 to be able to write
 you will let me
 - let me meet
 from you.
 Yours very truly
 J. P.

I intended soon
 to send John the
 a better letter
 on in this -
 want to hear



PAID

2 1/2

Mrs. Mary Little.

Newbury.
 Vermont.

From Richard & Mary Little
 Newbury Dec 17-1821 in 18-5